

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7274

BILL NUMBER: HB 1683

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 7, 2003

BILL AMENDED: Feb 6, 2003

SUBJECT: Railroads

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Liggett

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill adds Class II railroads to the requirement that a railroad company establish a counseling or trauma program and make certain services available for employees involved in accidents resulting in death or serious bodily injury. It establishes a monetary penalty for the failure to establish a program or make services available.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The proposal provides that a suit to recover the penalty as provided may be brought by the Attorney General on behalf of the Department of Transportation. The Attorney General's office would handle this suit as it does other such suits and can be accomplished with the current staff. The fund affected for the Attorney General is the state General Fund.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) The penalty for failure to establish a counseling or trauma program and make certain services available for employees involved in accidents resulting in death or serious bodily injury is set at not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 for each violation. The specific impact will depend upon the number of violations which occur. The fund into which the penalty would be deposited is not specified, but the Attorney General's office reports that the money is recorded by the Attorney General and deposited into the state General Fund.

Background Information: Class II railroads are defined as railroads with operating revenues between \$20 M and \$250 M per year. The Department of Transportation reports that there are three Class II railroads in the state with 167 miles of mainline track.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Jennifer Thuma, Legislative Counsel of the Attorney General, 233-6143.

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